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precarious supplies on vast extents. We have managed to step up food production from about 28 lakhs of tons in 1950–51 to 46 lakhs of tons in 1956–57, and thereby attained a fair measure of self-sufficiency in food. Favourable seasonal conditions have indeed helped us in this respect, but we need not under-rate the significance of our own efforts in this direction. The newly constructed irrigation reservoirs, hundreds of renovated tanks, thousands of electric pumpsets, for lift irrigation, increased application of chemical fertilizers, green manures, urban compost and improved seeds, have all helped us substantially in making fuller use of nature's bounty.

The accelerating pace of Capital Outlay in recent years has naturally increased the public debt of the State which now stands at about Rs. 101 crores involving an annual recurring charge of Rs. 566 lakhs towards servicing. But this should not disturb us in the least, because we have built up substantial assets, the benefits of which accrue to the people in an abundant measure. We have invested Rs. 70 crores on Electricity Schemes, Rs. 45 crores on Irrigation Works, and we have also lent about Rs. 32 crores to agriculturists and local bodies. The book-value of all our investments is more than Rs. 150 crores and exceeds the public debt by a handsome margin. Under these circumstances, the size of our public debt, far from being a source of anxiety, should be viewed as an indicator of our economic development and social progress.

With these remarks, Sir, I present to this House the Budget proposals for 1958–59. (Cheers.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m. on Monday, the 3rd March 1958.

The House then adjourned.

IV.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* 82. *Notification issued with G.O. Press No.* 4538, *Revenue, dated 7th December* 1957, *regarding amendment to the Madras General Sales Tax Rules*, 1939.

83. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No.* 3345, *Home, dated 23rd December* 1957, *regarding amendment to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules*, 1940.

† 84. *The Madras Bhoodan Yagna Bill*, 1957 (*L.A. Bill No.* 15 *of* 1957), *as passed by the Legislative Assembly*.

† 85. *Statement XII showing action taken on assurances, promises and undertakings given during the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Sessions*, 1956–57, *of the Madras Legislative Council*.

‡ 86. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No.* 3980, *Industries, Labour and Co-operation, dated 3rd December* 1957, *regarding amendment to the Madras Factories Rules*, 1950.

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* Sent by post on 20th February 1958.
† Sent by post on 25th February 1958.
‡ Sent by post on 26th February 1958.